

Late Backup

RESOLUTION NO. ~~20170216~~20170302-034

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council, participants in the Spirit of East Austin initiative, and other stakeholders have consistently expressed a strong desire for equitable economic opportunity for all Austinites; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Crescent includes portions of Austin City Council districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7; and portions of neighborhoods in the central East Austin, Colony Park, Del Valle, Dove Springs, Montopolis and Rundberg areas; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines populations that are hard-to-employ populations as recipients welfare of public assistance recipients, people with differing sabilities, and individuals who were formerly incarcerated individuals; and

WHEREAS, middle-skill jobs are those that typically require some education and training beyond a high school diploma, but less than a four-year baccalaureate degree; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt and Mayor Adler convened a working group facilitated by Workforce Solutions of the Capital Area to develop the recently approved first-ever Community Workforce Master Plan, with a goal of 10,000 Travis County residents who are economically disadvantaged Travis County residents securing middle-skill jobs by 2022; and

WHEREAS, Priority Program 3 of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan calls for growing Austin's economy by investing in our workforce, education systems, entrepreneurs, and local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City Council enacted Resolution No. 20030612-015 establishing an Economic Development Policy and Program including a Firm Based Incentive Matrix used to determine the eligibility of a Firm seeking economic incentives from the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council enacted Resolution No. 20041028-003 to amend the Firm Based Incentive Matrix; and

WHEREAS, the City Council formed the Special Committee on Economic Incentives by Resolution No. 20120524-092 to make recommendations to Council regarding improvements to the City's existing Economic Development Policy, and enacted Resolution No. 20131024-056 to amend the Firm Based Incentive Matrix;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Manager is directed to initiate a stakeholder consultation process and develop recommendations for ~~reforming~~ revising the City's economic development incentives policies, including a thorough examination of the full range of incentive agreement options and tools, including, but not limited to, job-based, investment-based, and place-based incentives, as well as innovative

financing mechanisms and the potential for matching funds from public, private sector, or non-profit entities, to result in more equitable and inclusive economic opportunities and improved, positive population-health outcomes for all Austinites.

The updated incentive policies should be aligned with Priority Programs of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, including Priority Program 3.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That recommendations for ~~reforming~~ revising the City's economic development incentive policy should be structured to result in increased community benefits, including, but not limited to:

- a. Community benefits identified in the current City economic incentives policy, including the provision of jobs that pay no less than the City's adopted living wage or prevailing wage, domestic partnership benefits provisions, and other provisions that promote the well-being of workers;
- a.b. The creation of middle-skill jobs in targeted occupations identified by the ~~most recent~~ Community Workforce Master Plan (currently Information Technology, Healthcare, and Skilled Trades), support for job training and paid internships or apprenticeships in targeted ~~industry clusters~~ occupations, and located within Imagine Austin Activity Centers, Job Centers, ~~and or~~ Activity Corridors -in the Eastern Crescent, or providing better employment opportunities for those in the Eastern Crescent;
- b.c. Increased employment among populations that are hard-to-employ ~~populations~~;

- e.d. Increased access to goods and services in communities that are traditionally underinvested communities, including, but not limited to, healthy food options deserts in the Eastern Crescent;
- d.c. Increased availability of affordable commercial space for local small businesses, including the creative arts sector;
- e.f. Development of vibrant, mixed-use commercial corridors; and
- g. Leverage of public investments to improve positive health outcomes for low-income Austinite's.
- f.h. Retention of local small business employers struggling to survive and stay in Austin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall present recommendations for ~~reforming~~ revising the City's economic development incentives policies to City Council within ~~90~~ 180 days of the adoption of this Resolution.

ADOPTED: _____, 2017

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk